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PEACE.

BY REV. J. H. CLINCH, D.D.

Lord, let us ever be
At peace with Thee!
Tempests are raging round,
And cares and griefs abound;
Contests with earth and sin,
And fears within.

Lord, let our conflicts cease,
Give us Thy peace!
Troubled and tempest-tossed,
Wearied and worn and lost;
Drive sorrow from our breast,
And give us rest!

Strike from our impious hands
Sin's rebel brands.
With Thee, the Lord of life,
Our souls have been at strife.
Oh! to our stubborn will
Say, "Peace, be still."

Through Jesus Christ we pray,
He is the Way;
He can our souls supply
With mercies from on high.
He can Love's reign increase,
Great Prince of Peace.

—Selected.

WAR THE ONE FOE OF ITALY.

BY THOMAS CHASE, LITT. D., LL.D.

Few things in the recent history of the world were sadder than the bondage in which the several States of Italy were held less than a generation ago; few things more admirable than the faith and courage with which the Italian patriots, especially the young men, hoping against hope, stood eager to seize every opportunity which offered even the slightest promise of effective labor for their country's freedom. Never shall I forget the many marks I saw, when travelling in Italy in my early manhood, both of her indignant grief at her slavery and her resolute determination, while biding her time, ere long to throw off her yoke. Not a few of the young men, in all parts of the peninsula, confided to me their sorrow and their hope, in burning words so intense and significant that they can never fade from my memory. In this age of many wonders and many triumphs of great and good causes, nothing, unless it is the emancipation of the slaves in our own country, has given me greater pleasure than the inde-

pendence and unification of that glorious land, whose consummation was so well told in those proud and historic words with which Victor Emanuel opened the first session of the Italian Parliament in the city of the Cæsars: "The work to which I have consecrated my life is completed, and Italy, united and free, is restored to herself and to Rome."

The results of the emancipation of Italy have not been disappointing to the friends of human progress. The free exercise of religion in accordance with the individual conscience is secured, popular education has been introduced and widely extended, railways, aqueducts and other public works have been constructed, commerce, manufactures and agriculture have flourished as never before; wages have advanced and the savings of the working people have greatly increased. Unwonted signs of material prosperity and intellectual and moral improvement meet you on every side; and from the faces of the people—with one exception to which I shall refer—the look of depression and despair, of old so striking and so painful, is gone.

One would think that all mankind would rejoice with a country so emancipated, and that no obstacle would be thrown in the path of her progress by any of her sister nations. And yet the Christian nations of Europe, through a great defect in their civilization, are to-day most dangerous enemies of the liberty, prosperity and progress of this young and hopeful country.

Attention has been often called to the severity with which military burdens are pressing upon Italy, and the suffering from starvation and disease thus entailed on many of her inhabitants, whose faces to-day bear the marks of a deeper despair than that which was stamped by tyranny in former years. It is of course a mistake, as Signor Crispi has lately shown, to speak of the great public debt and the heavy taxation of Italy as occasioned exclusively by her military expenditures; her enlightened support of education and public improvements of many kinds, so greatly neglected by the former governments, entailed upon her very large expenses, wisely and cheerfully borne. These expenses, however, do not exceed the limit of her ability; and if her military expenses could be reduced to what is necessary for the support of a very small army adequate for the suppression of brigandage and for action as a national police force, she could appropriate still more money to beneficent uses without being seriously burdened. There is one cause and one only of the unbearable oppressiveness of her public burdens, and that is the barbarous institution of war.

Whether it be the supposed necessity of her making a contract to keep a great military force in readiness to defend Austria and Germany against attack, in return for the guarantee given by those powers to maintain by force and arms her title to the possession of Rome and the old papal States, or the general necessity, which Signor Crispi

says would exist even in the absence of the triple alliance or any other special convention, of keeping up a great naval and land force to secure her national existence and independence, the "necessity" in either case is a grave impeachment of the so-called Christian civilization of the nineteenth century.

What nation, in this age of the world, shall be base enough to attack or menace the independence and the unity of Italy? Ought conflicting claims to the possession of territories to be settled by mutual murder on the part of the claimants, or by popular suffrage on the part of the inhabitants of the territories in question, aided by the advice or arbitration of some supreme court of nations, a "Peace Tribunal of the World"? It is monstrous that in the closing years of the nineteenth century of Christianity a young, noble nation, ambitious of true greatness and aiming to promote the true welfare of all her people, should be subjected to intolerable burdens in order to protect herself against wanton aggression or to maintain her right to rule provinces whose people, with the sympathy of their compatriots and the general sympathy of the wisest of mankind, have chosen her as their ruler.

I hope that it is probable that if she would boldly disband her forces and curtail her military expenses almost to the point of their utter disappearance, she would find herself even now sufficiently protected by the common sense of justice and hatred of aggression in all the civilized countries of the earth. But most statesmen would tell me that this hope is Quixotic; and it is therefore that I arraign the abominable institution of war as producing the intolerable evils of which Italy is the victim, and obstructing the natural courses of justice and honor in the world.

THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND ARBITRATION IN THE WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

BY MRS. H. WOOD.

The origin and growth of this important and interesting department of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, is a subject of much interest to all lovers of the great Peace movement which is thrilling the heart of our world to-day. It is one of the strong links in the chain of brotherly love which is being forged to circle the world in unity and peace.

The day is now approaching, we believe, when the earnest workers in every branch of the Peace organizations shall see grand results from their untiring labors, and Christ's words—"Blessed are the Peacemakers," shall sound sweetly to their ears.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union, which has for its noble aim the uplifting of humanity and forwarding of every philanthropic object, added in 1887, to its numerous important lines of work, that of the Department of "Peace and Arbitration" and placed at its head as National Superintendent, Mrs. Hannah J. Bailey of Winthrop Centre, Maine, who, being a zealous worker in the temperance cause, and also in the Friends' Church, of which she is a member, had heart and principles fully enlisted in the cause from the start.

The first thing to be done toward organization of this new department of the W. C. T. U. was to make known

clearly the object of the department work and the principles to be taught by its workers.

Its object is to promote the principles of peace in the heart, home, church and the nations of the world.

It claims that to take human life under any circumstances is overstepping the bounds of human rights, and that to do so cannot be morally legalized.

It aims to secure such training for the children in home, Sabbath-school, public school and Loyal Temperance Legion, as will make them despise physical combat, and will lift them to a plane where the weapons are arguments, parliamentary usage and law; all of these having above them "the Sword of the Spirit," that weapon which is, above all others, worthy of reasonable and responsible beings.

The department also contemplates International Arbitration, as the method that shall universally replace war, and in this interest, the circulation of literature, giving of lectures, signing petitions and co-operation with other peace societies, is carried forward.

It was no easy task to get the machinery of this department into good running order. It required time, patience and perseverance. The first year twelve States and one Territory had taken up the work. Sixty lectures and addresses were given, besides all the local work and circulation of literature, much of which was prepared especially for the department.

A steady and sure progress has been made, until to-day, twenty-five States and the District of Columbia have superintendents pushing the work with unfailing energy and constant prayer. There are many county and local superintendents in every organized State.

Ten eloquent lecturers are in the field, ready at all times to "publish the glad tidings of peace."

Two papers devoted to this department are published monthly by Mrs. Bailey, *The Pacific Banner* for adults, and *The Acorn* for children.

Thus the work is growing in the United States—but not here only. Since its organization, Mrs. Bailey has been made the World's Superintendent of the Department, as well as National, and from many foreign lands come reports of rapid progress being made even against so great an evil as the war system.

Canada has taken up the work; far away Australia has several earnest laborers. England has zealous workers. At the Paris Exposition the beautiful white banner, presented by its superintendent to this department, hung before the multitude, proclaiming its message of "Peace on earth, good will toward men" from America's W. C. T. U.

Space will not permit the enumeration of the various modes of bringing forward this interesting labor of love as it is being done by its managers.

It is in reality the department of Love, and the prayers of its workers will be answered, the white banner shall float o'er this grand old world of ours, the "swords shall be turned into ploughshares, and the spears into pruning hooks." "Love shall tread out the baleful fire of anger, and in its ashes plant the tree of Peace."

It is a greater glory to slay wars themselves by a word, than men by the sword; and to acquire or preserve peace by peace, and not by war.—*Augustine*.